



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
SPRINGFIELD MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS
FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for illegally possessing a firearm. Today's sentence, Schlozman said, is part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

William McCoy, 23, of Springfield, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this afternoon to 15 years and eight months in federal prison without parole. **McCoy** was sentenced as an armed career criminal, Schlozman explained, due to three prior violent felony convictions.

On Nov. 14, 2005, **McCoy** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. **McCoy** was a passenger in the front seat of a vehicle that was stopped by a Springfield police officer April 18, 2005. The officer observed a set of brass knuckles on the passenger side floor board, and located a single round of Colt .45-caliber ammunition in **McCoy's** front pocket. The officer then searched the rest of the car and located a Raven Arms .25-caliber pistol under the front passenger seat.

Under federal law, Schlozman explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **McCoy** has two 2001 criminal felony convictions for tampering in Greene County, Mo., and a 2001 criminal felony conviction for assault in Greene County.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. Kelleher. It was investigated by the Springfield, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html